REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to show the relationship to cross-related applications.

The Abstract is amended in order to meet the guidelines set forth in MPEP § 608.01(b). A clean copy is enclosed at the end of this paper.

It is noted that this Application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/442,277, which was subjected to a Restriction Requirement. Applicants elected with traverse original claim 10. Claim 10 was found to be allowable. Claims 1-9 were subsequently withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-9 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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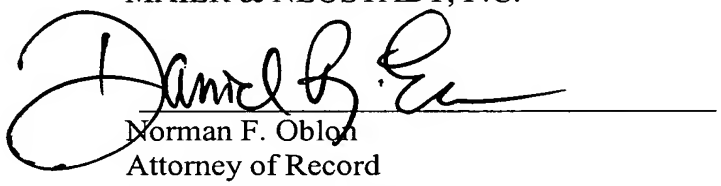

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a process whereby fluorine atom-containing sulfonyl fluoride compound(s) useful as e.g. materials for ion-exchange membranes, can be produced efficiently and at low cost without structural limitations while solving the difficulties in production. Namely, the present invention provides a process which comprises reacting $XSO_2R^A\text{-}E^1$ (1) with $R^B\text{-}E^2$ (2) to form $XSO_2R^A\text{-}E\text{-}R^B$ (3), then reacting (3) with fluorine in a liquid phase to form $FSO_2R^{AF}\text{-}E^F\text{-}R^{BF}$ (4), and further, decomposing the compound to obtain $FSO_2R^{AF}\text{-}E^{F1}$ (5), wherein R^A is a bivalent organic group, E^1 is a monovalent reactive group, R^B is a monovalent organic group, E^2 is a monovalent reactive group which is reactive with E^1, E is a bivalent connecting group formed by the reaction of E^1 with E^2, R^{AF} is a bivalent organic group formed by the fluorination of R^A, etc., R^{BF} is the same group as R^B, etc., E^F is a bivalent connecting group formed by the fluorination of E, etc., E^{F1} is a monovalent group formed by the decomposition of E^F, and X is a halogen atom.